

NORTHALLERTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Chairman: G. East, Esq.
 Vice-Chairman: J. Avey, Esq.
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 Sanitary Inspector
 and Surveyor: E.O. Hillyard, Esq.
 Medical Officer of Health: Hugh G. Hanan, M.B.Ch.B.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT, 1942

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1942.

In view of War Conditions the Minister of Health recommended in Circular 2773 that the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health, should be of an interim nature and confined to essential and urgent matters or those arising out of the War. I have, therefore, reported briefly on the important features only but have included the statistics in an abbreviated form.

Vital Statistics, 1942

Births per 1000 population	-	15.0
Deaths " " "	-	7.1
Infant Mortality per 1000 live births	-	36.6
Deaths arising out of Pregnancy or Childbirth	-	Nil
Deaths occurring from Whooping Cough or Infantile Diarrhoea	-	Nil

Infectious & Notifiable Diseases:

Diphtheria	-	3
Scarlet Fever	-	25
Pneumonia	-	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	7
Measles	-	18
Erysipelas	-	2

Tuberculosis:-

New cases	-	6
Deaths	-	1

Government Evacuation Scheme:

The Sick Bay and Hostel at Mill Hill, Brompton, continued to be of great use to this and adjoining Authorities. During the year the Regional Officer of the Ministry of Health suggested that Mill Hill should be used as a Hostel for difficult children, for boys and girls up to eleven years of age, the children to be drawn from reception areas throughout the North Riding. The Council agreed to this proposal provided that the existing administration was retained and that sick bay accommodation was made available by adapting an outbuilding for the purpose. The necessary alterations were approved and the work put in hand to provide for a 6 bed sick bay.

Maternity and Child Welfare:

The Emergency Maternity Hospital at Mount Pleasant is run under the direction of the Local Supervising Authority, in this case the North Riding County Council.

Laboratory Service:

During the year an emergency public health laboratory was established by the Medical Research Council at the County Hall

and this has proved of real benefit in the control of infectious diseases, water analyses &c. The facilities of the laboratory were made available to all Medical Officers of Health and private practitioners.

Immunisation Against Diphtheria:

The campaign to effect the immunisation of children between 1 and 15 years of age was continued during the year, and the following shows the position at the close of the year:-

Children between 1 year and 5 years of age 63% were treated

Children between 5 years and 15 years of age 80% were treated

Emergency Services

- (a) Casualty Services - The personnel maintained their high standard of efficiency and have continued to show their keenness in many practices and exercises.
- (b) Food Decontamination - An increase in personnel establishment was authorised for the Urban Area late in the year and was not obtainable before the end of 1942. All additional equipment authorised, other than underclothing which is to be supplied through the Ministry of Home Security (but not yet provided) has been secured.
- (c) Emergency Mortuary - After Consultation with Ministry of Health officials for the Regional Office, the two cemetery Chapels have been equipped for use as a temporary mortuary for use in emergency.
- (d) Emergency Water Supply - Two 500 gallons water tanks for mounting on suitable vehicles were purchased during the year.

The alternative schemes for the use of shallow wells or a deep borehole have been submitted since March and various conferences with the technical staff of the Regional Office have taken place but a decision is yet pending.

- (e) Emergency Sanitation - A scheme for emergency sanitation to provide for parts of the town where no private open space is available to householders was submitted, but is still awaiting a decision.

Salvage of Waste Materials

During the year the following quantities of materials were salvaged and disposed of:-

	tons	cwts.	qrs.
Paper	89	19	3
Metal	9	12	-
Textiles	3	3	3
Bones	2	8	3

To assist the direct collection of Kitchen Waste by local pig farmers the Council purchased a quantity of covered receptacles and placed them at the disposal of any farmer willing to undertake a minimum of two collections per week in any part of the district. The tins being periodically changed by the Council who undertake to keep them in a cleanly condition.

At the present time there are 30 bins in use in addition to these privately owned and used by the farmers.

In conformity with the advice of the Ministry of Supply Salvage Stewards were appointed for the various streets or areas of the town; there are 80 voluntary workers and they have been largely responsible for the continued success of salvage results.

Slaughterhouses:

The Government Meat Distribution Scheme is still in operation as detailed in reports for 1940 and 1941 and the arrangements for inspection of meat continued throughout the year as for the previous periods. As a result of a conference held at the County Hall and attended by representatives of the areas served by this centre it was decided that the work of meat inspection with other duties in the area could not be continued without additional assistance and that pending the appointment of an additional inspector the adjacent authorities should allow their inspectors when available to share the work of meat inspection at Northallerton.

Subsequent event led to the appointment in December of Mr. J.R. White of Darlington to carry out the work as additional inspector conjointly with similar duties under the Bedale R.D.C. At the close of the year arrangements had been made for Mr. White to commence duty on the 1st February, 1943.

Housing:

One of the notices served in 1941 for repair to houses was complied with in May and certain works had been done in respect of the remaining four outstanding notices but were not entirely completed according to the requirements of the notices.

During July the occupation of a Tennis Club Pavilion for domestic purposes was investigated and although the conditions were unsatisfactory it was found impossible to obtain a house for this family and the occupation continued to the end of the year.

Clean Milk Production:

The Clean Milk Scheme administered by the War Agricultural Executive Committee was initiated during the latter part of the year and the Council expressed their willingness to co-operate fully in the working of the scheme, at the same time they would deprecate very strongly any abrogation of their existing Statutory powers or duties in connection with the Public Health aspect of administration in this matter.

Water Supply:

Following the establishment of the Ministry's Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Northallerton all bacteriological examination of water samples has been carried out under an arrangement with that Laboratory.

During July and August when heavy rain storms had been experienced there was a marked deterioration in the bacteriological quality of samples. The absence of any source of sewage pollution in the catchment area and the incidence of heavy rain at this period indicates that the coli-organisms found are derived from the soil and it was therefore decided not to regard the contamination as dangerous. The partial failure of chlorination may be attributed to the increased organic content of the water under these conditions, the water being unfiltered.

The necessity to turn off water during the night period (thus reducing the supply hours to 17 per day) recurred on one or two occasions due to excessive demand or loss by leakage.

The Statutory Inspection required by the Reservoirs (Safety Provisions) Act 1930 was carried out by Mr. J. Kennard of Messrs. Edward Sandeman and Partners on 26th October.

General

This report was largely prepared by Mr. H.G. Hanen who was Medical Officer during the year 1942, but could not be presented before his engagement terminated as the vital statistics were not then available.

I am, Mr. Chairmen and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A.E. MILNE

31st July, 1944.

Medical Officer of Health.